

Approved For Release 2001/03/30 : CIA TIP57-00012A000100050002-5
Security Information

MEMORANDUM FOR: Project Review Committee

SUBJECT: Establishment of a CIA Film Unit to Meet Requirements of OTR for Training Films

1. Problem: To increase the scope, quality and effectiveness of OTR training programs dealing with the technical and psychological aspects of clandestine operations through the use of Agency-produced training films.

2. Facts Bearing on the Problem:

a. Military, industrial and civilian educational institutions use audio-visual aids consistently because they clarify information for the student and impress material more deeply in his mind. (Tab 1).

b. TR(S) now supplements courses on clandestine operations with audio-visual aids. These include motion pictures, which are obtained from sources outside the Agency, are inadequate in content, and fail to meet the objectives of instruction. (Tab 2).

c. OTR has on its staff personnel who are professionally competent to produce motion pictures; audio-visual specialists trained to select subjects for films and to integrate them into curricula; and advisors with operational and training experience. (Tab 3).

d. The Agency's film-developing facility is not prepared to service a motion picture unit operating on full daily schedules. It is not equipped to develop or print the new low-cost Eastman 35mm. color stock. Nor do facilities exist for sound-transference, re-recording, animation, or opticals. (Tab 4).

3. Discussion:

a. With their limitless scope, motion pictures can provide an answer to one of OTR's present insoluble problems, that of showing the use of techniques under realistic circumstances in foreign settings and atmospheres.

b. In addition to broadening instruction and increasing its effectiveness, films would also assist OTR in standardizing methods; in training agent and overseas staff personnel; and in maintaining efficiency in the event of war, when classes would increase in size and critical shortages of qualified instructors would arise.

c. Films will not attain maximum effectiveness unless they answer the specific requirements of Agency doctrine and are specially produced to meet the demands of CIA audiences. Agency security standards also must be maintained in all steps of production. For these reasons, no governmental or commercial film production facility appears qualified at this time to produce CIA films.

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d. Several methods for producing films have been studied closely and rejected on grounds of excessive cost, inadequate security, or unsatisfactory production conditions. (Tab 5).

e. Tab 6 outlines a plan which appears to answer the requirements of efficiency, security and economy. Using personnel now on the OTR staff as a film-producing nucleus, the plan would cover production of OTR's immediate need for five films of 1 to 2 reels each in length on air support and one 3- to 4-reel orientation film summarizing the five films for non-Paramilitary audiences. The six pictures, to be filmed [REDACTED] would be completed by January, 1954, at an estimated maximum cost of \$273,700.00.

4. Conclusions:

a. The scope, quality, and effectiveness of CIA training can be increased considerably by the use of CIA-produced training films.

b. The establishment of an Agency production unit is feasible and can meet the current critical needs of OTR for training films.

c. OTR is presently able to provide the professional talent, advisors, and audio-visual specialists necessary to produce training films in the limited province described above.

5. Recommendations:

If the conclusions enumerated in no. 4 above are accepted, it is recommended that:

a. OTR be authorized to undertake a film project involving the production of six air support films and that \$273,700.00 be appropriated to implement the project.

b. OTR be authorized to submit subsequently to PRC requests for additional funds to cover production when further film requirements are developed. (Tab 7).

MATTHEW BAIRD
Director of Training

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

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